



NUTRACEUTICALS AS A THERAPEUTIC TOOL IN CANINE ETHOLOGY

***“Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food”
Hippocrates 400BC***

A nutraceutical is a natural non-drug substance which has health benefits and is used to prevent or treat diseases.

Nutraceutical
Nutrire +
pharmaceutical

OBJECTIVES

- To analyse the state of affairs regarding the knowledge of therapeutic effects of nutraceuticals on dogs.
- To evaluate which nutraceuticals have a positive effect in the treatment of anxiety, fear and cognitive dysfunction.
- To determine if nutraceuticals would be an interesting and useful tool in canine ethology problems.

RESULTS

Anxiety

Punica granatum
Valeriana officinalis
Rosmarinus officinalis
L-theanine L-tryptophan
Tilia spp. Omega 3
Crataegus oxyacantha
Musa sapientum



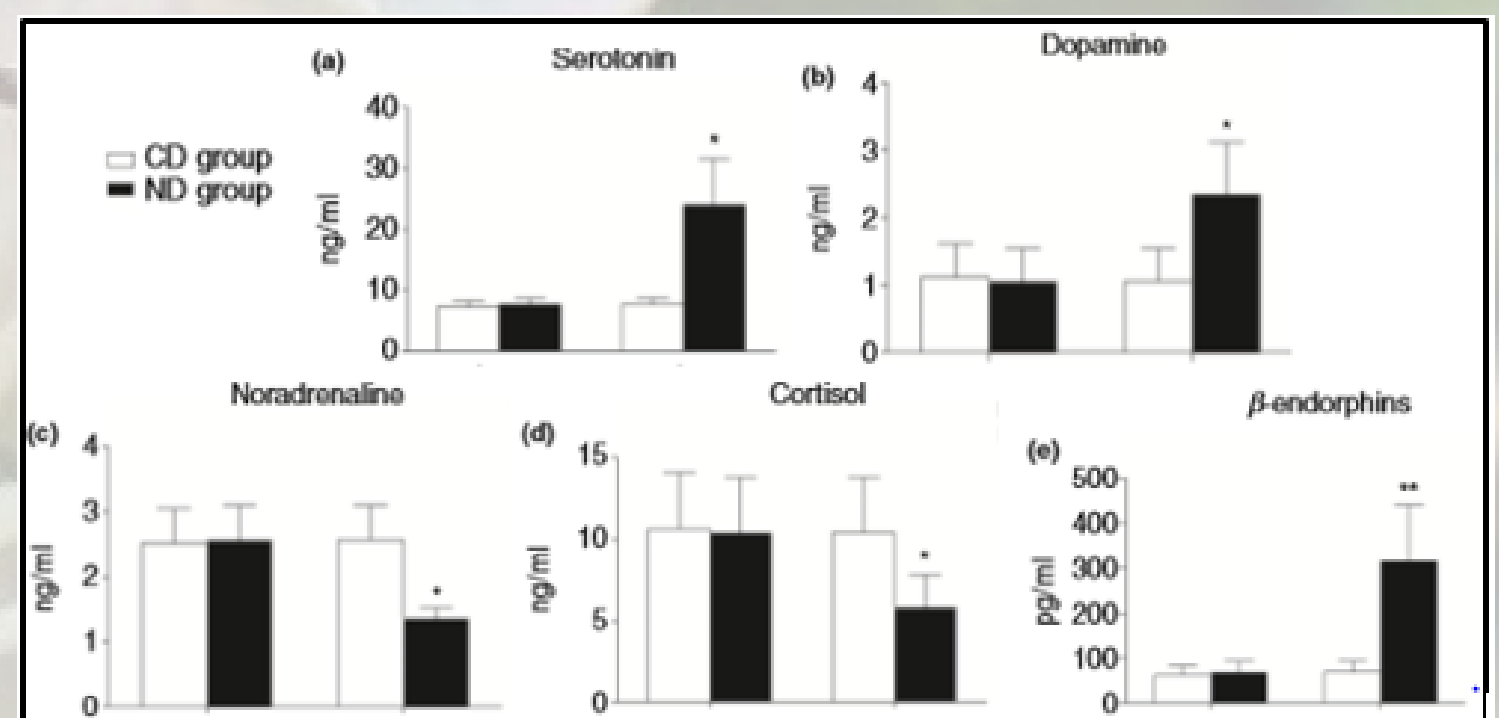
Fear

L-theanine

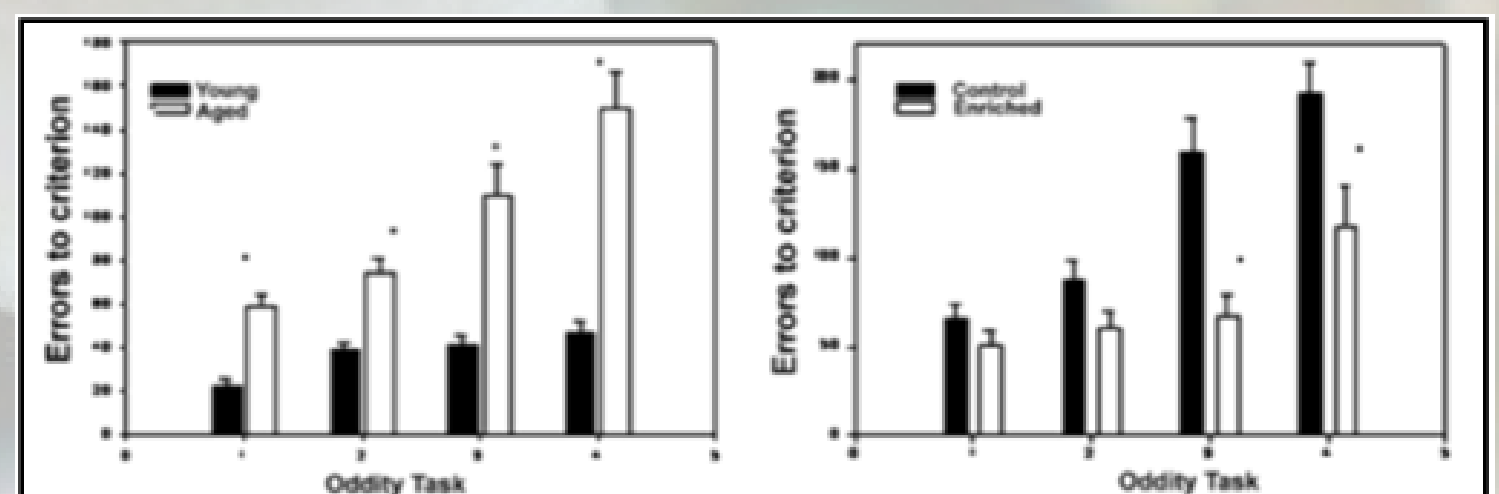
Fish hydrolyzate

Cognitive dysfunction

- *Panax ginseng*
- *Vaccinium myrtillus*
- *Vitis vinifera*
- *Bacopa monnieri*
- *Ginkgo biloba*
- Caffeine



Sechi S et al. 2017



Head i Zicker, 2004

CONCLUSIONS

- There are not many studies evaluating the nutraceutical's effects in dogs.
- The natural origin of these substances does not always avoid adverse reactions.
- Studies have demonstrated positive effects of nutraceuticals used as co-therapy or treatment of behavioural problems such as anxiety, fear and cognitive dysfunction.
- Some nutraceuticals have not been studied when administered orally.
- More research is needed in order to evaluate the positive effects as well as the possible risks of these treatments.

